

Filed for intro on 03/09/98

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 505  
By Williams

A RESOLUTION directing the Department of Environment and Conservation to conduct a feasibility study relative to the creation of a state resort park along portions of Norris Lake, the Clinch River and Big Sycamore Creek near the convergence of Claiborne, Grainger and Hancock Counties.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is blessed with an abundance of recreational opportunities, significant historical and archaeological areas, and other natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, one such area involves certain properties along the northeastern end of Norris Lake, and along portions of the Clinch River and Big Sycamore Creek in Claiborne and Grainger Counties near their convergence with Hancock County; these properties include Lone Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the proposed park would include a portion of the shoreline of one of the cleanest TVA reservoirs, Norris Lake, a portion of the free-flowing water of Clinch River, and a rich fund of biodiversity in need of protection and preservation; and

WHEREAS, the area under consideration is particularly underserved by state parks, and the tri-county area of Claiborne, Grainger and Hancock Counties are economically deprived and in need of the economic stimulus which a state resort park would provide; and

\*000000001\*

00000001

\*012144\*

\*01214456\*

WHEREAS, the creation of a state resort park in the Lone Mountain area is a cost-effective means to provide an economic stimulus, recreational opportunities and environmental and cultural preservation because of certain existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, these conditions include a preexisting and improved highway infrastructure, the availability of privately owned and operated boat dock and golf course, the availability of 1500 acres of TVA land for park development at no cost, and a water and sewer system installed to the site; and

WHEREAS, the development of a state resort park will have a high likelihood of spin-off business and a significant multiplier effect in a region which would benefit greatly from such a stimulus; and

WHEREAS, the park would complement existing regional tourism efforts, serving as an accommodations center adjacent to a wide variety of recreational, cultural and heritage tourism in the immediate area; and

WHEREAS, the initiative for a park enjoys strong support from the county commissions of the three counties, local civic organizations and businesses, and the citizens of the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed park has the strong endorsement of the Southern Appalachian Rivers Initiative of the Nature Conservancy of Tennessee as being vital to the preservation of the open spaces of the local ridges and valleys, streams and shoreline of the proposed site; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation would be the most appropriate agency to perform the feasibility study as preserving, conserving, enhancing and promoting our state's natural and cultural resources is a primary mission of the agency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That the Department of Environment and Conservation is hereby directed to conduct a feasibility study to create a state resort park from certain properties along the northeastern portion of Norris Lake, and along portions of the Clinch River and Big Sycamore Creek in Claiborne and Grainger Counties near their convergence with Hancock County. The overall purpose of the park would include the provision of recreational facilities and public accommodations, to preserve the open spaces and biodiversity of the shorelines, streams and ridges and valleys, and to promote regional heritage and tourism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study shall evaluate the feasibility and costs associated with the following:

- (a) resort inn with swimming facilities, tennis courts, and restaurant and meeting rooms;
- (b) gift shop;
- (c) cabins;
- (d) camping facilities for tents and recreational vehicle hookups;
- (e) showers and toilet facilities;
- (f) general store;
- (g) picnic pavilions with tables and grills;
- (h) museum and visitors information center;
- (i) boat cruise or ferry;
- (j) marina, boat rentals and launch ramps;
- (k) playgrounds;
- (l) horse stables and trails;
- (m) canoe and kayak concessions;
- (n) hiking and bicycling trails;
- (o) amphitheater;
- (p) recreation center and snack bar; and
- (q) archery, fishing, water skiing and other recreational activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation shall seek comment from public interest groups, including, but not limited to, the governments of Claiborne, Grainger and Hancock Counties and their municipalities, local civic, business and conservation groups, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the Department of Environment and Conservation upon request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation shall report its findings and recommendations to the two speakers no later than January 1, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Environment and Conservation.